SHOPPERS DRUG MART
SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 26

VANCOUVER metro®

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Size is nothing but a number

Canucks prospect — and brother to P.K. — Jordan Subban will never be mistaken for a hulking bruiser, but he still plans to play like a big-time defenceman PAGE 34

Aunt suspected in Chinese boy's eye-gouging

Blood evidence pointed to the woman, who committed suicide days after her nephew was attacked, say police PAGE 18

MIX AND MATCH YOUR LOOK

CLASHING PATTERNS, SPORTS-LUXE, STANDOUT PIECES — THEY'RE ALL GOOD WHEN YOU'RE OUT ON THE TOWN PAGE 27

Douglas Channel, the proposed termination point for an oil pipeline in the Enbridge Northern Gateway Project, is pictured in Kitimat. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Tories fuelling pipeline bid with public money: Greens

Northern Gateway. Enbridge should have conducted studies being funded by feds, says Elizabeth May

Federal Green Party Leader Elizabeth May says Ottawa is using Canadian taxpayers' money to subsidize oil-pipeline environmental studies that should have been fully explored by Enbridge, the Calgary-based company proposing to build the $6-billion Northern Gateway oil project.

But the federal government said Wednesday the $120 million earmarked to conduct oil-tanker safety studies on Canada's coastlines was announced last March in Vancouver by Natural Resources Minister Joe Oliver against a backdrop of tankers and shipping vessels in Burrard Inlet.

May claimed leaked documents reveal the federal government has embarked on two major studies worth at least $120 million that are "greasing the wheels for Enbridge," but Oliver issued a statement Wednesday saying he had nothing to hide.

"Work on tanker safety is critical to ensure we have world-class marine safety on Canada's coastlines," said the statement.

"Our government will not make decisions until an independent, scientific review determines they are safe for Canadians and safe for the environment."

At a news conference in Victoria, May said the federal documents reveal Ottawa is undertaking environmental initiatives that should have been originally conducted by Enbridge.

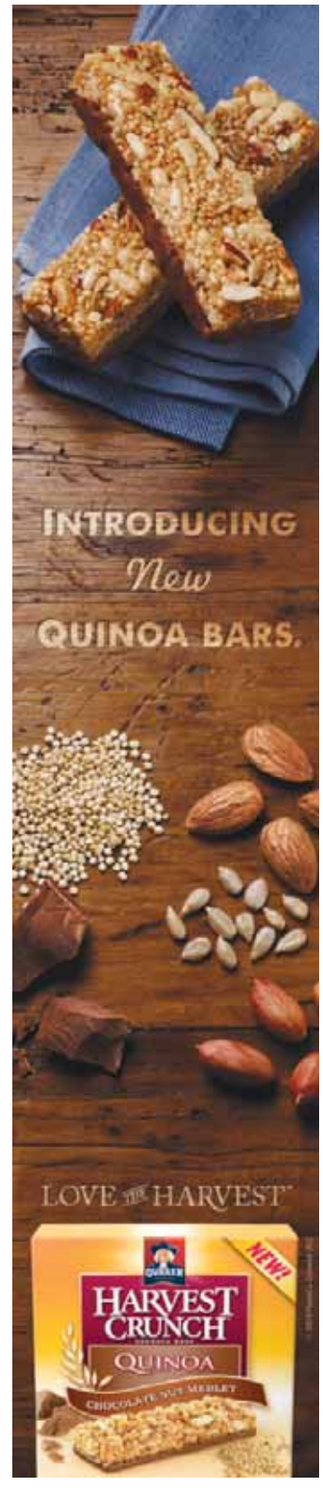
She said the Harper government is spending at least $78 million on marine-spill studies specifically connected to bitumen, which will be shipped in the pipeline between Alberta and B.C. May also said the documents reveal Ottawa is spending $42 million to study ways to improve weather forecasting in the northern B.C. coastal regions that will be used by oil tankers if the project is approved by the federal Joint Review Panel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Some of this money is going to backfill for Enbridge and do the homework it should have done before it went to the Joint Review Panel."

Green Party Leader Elizabeth May



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Landlord on the run?

'Heartless S.O.B.'
Court orders arrest of George Wolsey over $18,000 debt

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

Notorious Downtown Eastside landlord George Wolsey is officially a wanted man after refusing to pay thousands in damages to former tenants of his dilapidated buildings.

The B.C. provincial court ordered 10 warrants for Wolsey's arrest on Tuesday after he repeatedly failed to show up in court to address his $18,163 debt to 10 former residents of the Wonder and Palace hotels, the Pivot Legal Society announced at a news conference Wednesday.

It's a paltry sum for a man who sold the two cockroach-and-bedbug-infested single-room-occupancy hotels in Vancouver's poorest neighbourhood for about $4 million in 2012.

Court action happened after the city issued an injunction forcing him to repair the buildings, which didn't have functional fire escapes.

"He's a heartless S.O.B.," former resident Stephen Freeman told reporters, adding Wolsey evicted him from his mouse-ridden room for buying methadone from a different pharmacist.

Wolsey, a Langley resident who had his pharmacist licence stripped in 2004 for forcing his tenants to fill their prescriptions through him, has seven days to turn himself in or Surrey sheriff services will begin searching for him.

This is the first time a Vancouver landlord has faced arrest warrants, Pivot lawyer Douglas King said.

Though it took Pivot five years to get to this point, King sees this as a success story.

"If you neglect buildings, if you take advantage of marginalized people, it will come back to you," he said.

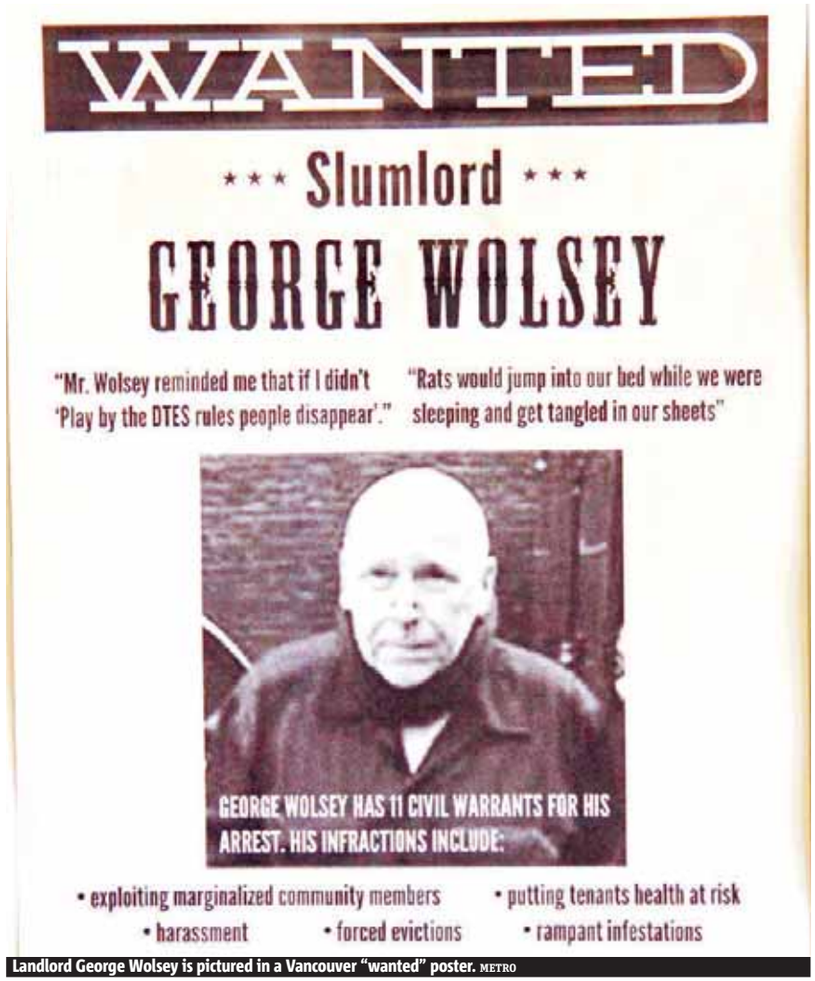
Harsh words

"He's a tyrant, period."
Stephen Freeman, who says he was evicted by landlord George Wolsey.

But Pivot is calling on both the city and the province to do more to fight problem landlords to take pressure off tenants who often don't have the capacity to help themselves.

The city should issue more injunctions if it sees perpetual problem behaviour, lawyer DJ Larkin said, and the province needs to revamp the Residential Tenancy Act to require a certain level of maintenance and protect tenants that make complaints.

"When it comes to the worst of the worst, you just can't leave it up to individuals to fight alone," she said.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GEORGE WOLSEY
"Mr. Wolsey reminded me that if I didn't 'Play by the DTES rules people disappear'."
"Rats would jump into our bed while we were sleeping and get tangled in our sheets"
GEORGE WOLSEY HAS 11 CIVIL WARRANTS FOR HIS ARREST. HIS INFRACTIONS INCLUDE:
• exploiting marginalized community members
• putting tenants health at risk
• harassment
• forced evictions
• rampant infestations
Landlord George Wolsey is pictured in a Vancouver "wanted" poster. METRO

Diamond ring latest catch of brazen thieves

The missing ring COURTESY DELTA POLICE

An elderly Lower Mainland woman is missing her diamond ring after yet another distraction theft last week.

Delta police are searching for a gold ring with a cluster of seven individual 0.9-carat diamonds that was stolen off the finger of a woman in the 7600 block of 117th Street on Aug. 31 around 1 p.m.

A man and a woman in a grey vehicle flagged down the victim under the guise of asking for directions.

The female suspect, described as 45- to 55-years-old with long, curly hair and medium to dark skin, exited the vehicle and distracted the victim by placing a piece of jewelry in her hand. She then removed the victim's ring and wristwatch before the woman noticed.

The suspect returned to the car and fled with her counterpart, described as a 45- to 55-year-old man with short, black hair and medium to dark skin.

A string of similar thefts have occurred in the Lower Mainland over the past several months, prompting Delta police to remind the public to be cautious and to hide valuable jewelry when in public.

Anyone with information regarding this theft is asked to call police at 604-946-4411 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Province has 'no idea' how many bears live in B.C.: Prof

Environment. Provincial government estimates for bear population in B.C. are crude, outdated: UVic conservation scientist

LUKE BROCKI
vancouver@metronews.ca

The B.C. government's claim that the grizzly-bear hunt it regulates twice a year is based on sound science is absurd, according to a conservation scientist at the University of Victoria.

When news broke Tuesday that a B.C.-born NHL player had shot and killed an adult male grizzly in an estuary on the province's central coast in May — an act that coastal First Nations said violated a year-old tribal law banning trophy hunting in their traditional territories — the province insisted sport hunting of grizzlies was a legal and sustainable practice based on "the best available science."

An emailed letter from the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations stated some 300 grizzlies are harvested every year from a population estimated at 15,000 animals.

But an assistant professor in the department of geography at UVic called those estimates crude and outdated.

"Very notably, the models from the coast don't include salmon as a parameter. That's absurd, that sort of omission," said Chris Darimont, who's in the process of publishing a peer-reviewed paper on bear populations after a season of field work on the central B.C. coast.

"We know that grizzlies in particular are closely coupled to how much salmon there are in ecosystems. We know with clear certainty that there's far less salmon now. So we can infer really confidently that there are far less bears."

All the B.C. government can know for sure, said Darimont, is how many bear tags it gives out to hunters — 3,786 limited authorizations were issued this year across the province.

The B.C. Ministry of Environment said Wednesday its most recent update to grizzly-population estimates across B.C. was done in April 2012.

Officials remain confident their results are accurate, as based on systematic aerial surveys, direct sampling and statistical modelling.

A councillor from the Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation called inviting this many hunters to roam B.C.'s coastal forests irresponsible and devastating to his nation's fledgling ecotourism industry.

A mother grizzly bear walks about a B.C. beach with her cub. DOUGLAS NEASLOSS/BEARSFOREVER.CA

"We're trying to develop a long-term sustainable industry in tourism, where, in my community, it's providing about 40 jobs," said Doug Neasloss.

"And then the province issues tags for hunters to come and shoot the very same bears that we're trying to view."

Grand Chief Stewart Phillip, president of the Union of British Columbia Indian Chiefs, called the bear hunt "barbaric" and urged the public to pressure the premier to reexamine the practice.

Quoted

"Very notably, the models from the coast don't include salmon as a parameter. That's absurd, that sort of omission."

Chris Darimont, assistant professor in the dept. of geography at UVic, on estimates for bear populations from the B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

87% agreed with ban

High support for ban on bear trophy hunting: Poll

A new public-opinion poll suggests overwhelming support for the year-old ban on trophy hunting for bears in central British Columbia.

The telephone poll, conducted by McAllister Opinion Research for the Coastal First Nations Bear Working Group between June 13 and 25, asked 805 adults across the province for their view on trophy hunting.

It found 87 per cent of respondents agreed hunting should be banned in the Great Bear Rainforest, and 80 per cent of respondents were in favour of a provincewide ban on grizzly hunting.

Current provincial regulations permit trophy hunting for bears each spring and fall.

"If I have to stand between feeding bears and people with guns, I will," said Kitasoo/Xai'xais Nation councillor Doug Neasloss, who also works as a bear-viewing guide on B.C.'s central coast.

The poll's margin of error was +/-3.5 percent, nineteen times out of twenty. METRO

Vancouver police seek potential witness to sexual assault

Vancouver police need help tracking down a man who may have witnessed a sexual assault from a 7-Eleven near the Olympic Village SkyTrain station last month.

A 37-year-old woman was walking home from meeting friends at a restaurant on West Broadway when she stopped at the convenience store at 710 West 6th Ave., according to a news release.

She was pushed from behind to the ground and sexually assaulted as she was heading north on Moberly Road after leaving the 7-Eleven around 1:30 a.m. Upon reviewing surveillance video from the 7-Eleven, police believe a man was in the store at the same time as the victim.

The sex-crimes unit is asking the public to help identify the potential witness in case he has information about the crime or the suspect.

The white man with short black hair is described as 35 to 45 years old and clean cut.

Anyone with information about this person is asked to call police at 604-717-0603 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Surveillance footage of a possible witness in a sexual-assault case. COURTESY VANCOUVER POLICE

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Two terminals. Port Metro Vancouver to build cargo inspection facilities

Canada's largest container terminal will be part of a multimillion-dollar expansion to include new facilities for inspection of offshore cargo at two Vancouver-area ports.

Besides the Roberts Bank coal terminal at the Deltaport causeway on First Nations land in Delta, B.C., Port Metro Vancouver will also build a new inspection facility at its Burrard Inlet terminal.

The $106-million project announced Wednesday will include nearly $50 million from the federal government.

International Trade Minister Ed Fast said the marine-container examination facilities will improve security and help to increase exports to new markets by reducing processing times.

He said the joint Canada-U.S. cargo-security strategy will facilitate the movement of shipments with Canada's biggest trading partner.

"We want to make sure that our trade with our partner remains robust," Fast said after the announcement at the Delta port. "We want to remove barriers at the border and move our security to the perimeter of our two countries, and this is another step in that direction.

"The United States does have a very serious concern about the security and entry into their country of containers and products that could represent a security risk, and we share those concerns."

Fast said he couldn't identify any security issues from past shipments.

About $172 billion worth of cargo arrived at the terminals last year, mostly from Asia, and further shipments came through the Port of Prince Rupert, he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Big build

$106M

Total cost of the Burrard Inlet terminal

Just don't call 911 if you get lost

The symbol of an RCMP officer riding a horse cut into a corn maze in Chilliwack, B.C., on Wednesday to celebrate the 140th year of the RCMP in Canada.

JONATHAN HAYWARD/ THE CANADIAN PRESS

3 police detachments

More cops got kidnap threats

Police in New Westminster say their detachment wasn't the only force to receive a bizarre phone call about a plan to kidnap a woman. Last Sunday, the male phoned police and described his plan. The call couldn't be traced, so police issued a public plea asking for more information.

RCMP in two other detachments received similar calls. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maple Ridge

Shooting victim still in hospital

The victim of last weekend's shooting in the 24,200 block of Lougheed Highway remains in hospital and under doctor's care, RCMP in Maple Ridge said Wednesday. Police responded Saturday to a property east of 240th Street where a man had been shot. Reports identified the man as Franz Prokop, a former councillor involved in a lawsuit over a Lotto jackpot. METRO

Pritchard, B.C.

Mounties warn of cop impersonator

RCMP are warning drivers in Pritchard, B.C., about a man pretending to be a cop. Two people reported being pulled over on Highway 1 by a man who drove a car with a strobe light. The man shone a flashlight into a driver's face and yelled as he asked for a licence. The suspect is described as being in his mid-20s, unshaven and wearing a nose ring.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Divorce trial

Canucks owner asks for privacy

Days before his divorce trial is slated to begin, Vancouver Canucks owner and multi-millionaire Francesco Aquilini is seeking court orders to keep certain details private.

Aquilini wants to protect the confidentiality of "private family and commercial interests" in the trial against his wife Taliah, according to a Twitter statement. METRO

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Prison chief gets the boot after reports of Islamist meetings

Egypt. Official denies aiding communication between jailed Muslim Brotherhood members

Egypt's interior minister removed the head of the country's prison authority Wednesday amid reports he facilitated meetings between detained Islamists, an official said.

The decision was part of a limited reshuffle in the ministry in charge of security, which also saw security and investigative chiefs removed in the southern governorate of Minya, where unrest is rife and mobs have attacked government buildings and churches.

A security official said Minister Mohammed Ibrahim removed Mostafa Baz after reports emerged he had overlooked meetings in jail between Muslim Brotherhood leaders and other Islamists and allowed them to communicate outside the prisons.

Egyptian Interior Minister Mohammed Ibrahim THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief the media. Baz had been in the post since June 10.

Explaining his decision, Ibrahim told Egypt's state news agency the reshuffle was necessary to restore state security.

A day earlier, Egypt's interim President Adly Mansour said security was his government's top priority.

Asked about Baz, Ibrahim said: "Prisons are one of the most important police sectors and require strong leadership. The removal was to ... appoint a more qualified leadership."

In an interview with a private TV station this week, Baz denied he facilitated meetings between the Brotherhood leadership. He said the media reports had referred to a communal prayer time involving several leaders of the group and other Islamists.

Baz said police officers outnumbered the Islamists at the prayers to make it clear they were being watched.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Toll climbs ever higher in Iraq

Nabil Ahmed carries the body of his two-year old son Mohammed, who was killed by a car bomb, during a funeral in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, 160 kilometres south of Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday. There has been a spike in deadly violence in recent months as insurgents try to capitalize on rising sectarian and ethnic tensions. The scale of the bloodshed has risen to levels not seen since 2008, a time when Iraq was pulling back from the brink of civil war. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oradour-sur-Glane

Presidents honour French victims of Nazi slaughter

With hugs and hand-holding in a solemn tribute to those killed, the presidents of Germany and France on Wednesday visited a ghost town left behind after the largest massacre in Nazi-occupied France nearly seven decades ago.

The trip by German President Joachim Gauck, accompanied by France's Francois Hollande, to the southwestern French town of Oradour-sur-Glane was the first by a serving German leader. The town is today a phantom village, with burned-out cars and abandoned buildings left as testimony to its history.

On June 10, 1944, an SS armoured division herded hundreds of civilians into barns and a church, blocked the doors, and set the town on fire. A total of 642 men, women and children died.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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U.S. Senate panel votes for use of force in Syria

10-7 in favour.
President's push for military strike after alleged chemical-weapons attack gains steam in Congress

President Barack Obama's request for speedy congressional backing of a military strike in Syria advanced in the Senate on Wednesday, hours after the president left open the possibility he would order retaliation for a deadly chemical weapons attack even if Congress withheld its approval.

A resolution backing the use of force against President Bashar Assad's government cleared the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on a 10-7 vote after it was stiffened at the last minute to include a pledge of support for "decisive changes to the present military balance of power" in Syria's civil war. It would rule out U.S. combat operations on the ground.

The measure is expected to reach the Senate floor next week, although the timetable for a vote is uncertain.

The support seen in the Senate will be harder to find in the Republican-controlled House of Representatives, which is also reviewing Obama's request, though its timetable is even less certain.

The Obama administration blames a chemical weapons attack that took place on Aug. 21 on Assad's government and says more than 1,400 civilians died, including at least 400 children. Other casualty estimates are lower, and the Syrian government denies responsibility, contending rebels fighting to topple Assad were to blame. The Senate panel's vote marked the first formal response in Congress, four days after Obama unexpectedly put off an anticipated cruise missile strike against Syria and instead asked lawmakers to unite behind such a plan. Obama was in Sweden after a day of diplomacy when the vote occurred. White House press secretary Jay Carney praised the Senate committee for backing Obama's call for a strike, saying the measure would uphold U.S. national security interests.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Against unilateralism

Putin might support UN call for strike

Russian President Vladimir Putin has warned the West against taking one-sided action in Syria but said Russia "doesn't exclude" supporting a UN resolution on punitive military strikes if it is proved that Syria used poison gas on its own people.

In an interview Tuesday with The Associated Press, Putin expressed hope that he and Obama would have serious discussions about Syria and other issues at the G-20 summit in St. Petersburg, Russia, this week.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrian refugees gather at the Turkish Cilvegozu gate border on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Working on the details

Democrats, Republicans voice concerns

The Senate committee's vote capped a hectic few days in which lawmakers first narrowed the scope of Obama's request — limiting it to 90 days and banning combat operations on the ground — and then widened it.

Republican Sen. John McCain, a proponent of aggressive U.S. military action in Syria, joined forces with Democratic Sen. Chris Coons to add a provision calling for "decisive changes to the present military balance of power on the ground in Syria."

At their urging, the measure was also changed to state that the policy of the United States is "to change the momentum on the battlefield in Syria so as to create favourable conditions for a negotiated settlement that ends the conflict and leads to a democratic government in Syria."

McCain, who has long accused Obama of timidity in Syria, argued that Assad will be willing to participate in diplomatic negotiations only if he believes he is going to lose the civil war he has been fighting for over two years.

But even supporters of military action urged Obama to do more to sell his plans to an American public that is highly skeptical after a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Republican Rep. Ed Royce said that while it would be important to deter the use of chemical weapons by Assad and others, there remained many unanswered questions, including what the U.S. would do if Assad retaliated.

"The administration's Syria policy doesn't build confidence," he said.

In a letter to her rank and file, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi said she had received suggestions for legislation in the House "to add language to prevent boots on the ground, to tie the authorization more closely to the use of chemical weapons and to address concerns about an open-ended timetable."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Privacy. Obama tries to assure Europe the NSA is 'not snooping' at random

President Barack Obama on Wednesday defended anew the United States' controversial surveillance programs, trying to reassure Europeans that the National Security Agency's spying apparatus acts in limited fashion to root out threats — even though recently revealed programs show a more widespread information-gathering effort.

"I can give assurances to the publics in Europe and around the world that we're not going around snooping at people's emails or listening to their phone calls," Obama said in response to a Swedish reporter's question during a news conference with Prime Minister Fredrik Reinfeldt as he began a whirlwind, 24-hour trip to Sweden. "What we try to do is to target very specifically areas of concern."

Still, the president acknowledged that questions about privacy were likely to trail him in Europe — a continent that is protective of privacy rights — for some time.

President Barack Obama at a press conference at Rosenbad, the seat of Swedish government, in Stockholm on Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The issue also bubbled up during his trip to Germany in June, shortly after newspapers published reports based on documents leaked by former government contractor Edward Snowden. Despite Obama's assertions of a more narrow-scope effort, the Snowden-leaked documents show the NSA collects and stores all kinds of data from the Internet, including emails, video chats and instant messages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Water plant's woes not a drop in the bucket: Automation's soaked

Calgary flood aftermath. Treated water may be substandard because giant city facility is in 'manual mode'

ROBSON FLETCHER
Metro in Calgary

Calgary's largest wastewater treatment facility is operating in "manual mode" due to damage from … water.

Because of the damage from June's flood, there's a "very high risk" that the plant will send treated water to the Bow River that doesn't meet provincial standards, a city report says.

"We've basically stepped back 30 years in time," said Kevin Colbran, manager of the Bonnybrook Wastewater Treatment Plant.

"We have the brain of our control system but all of the field devices and cabling that sent the information to that brain were toasted in the flood."

As a result, plant employees have to visually monitor things such as water levels and dissolved oxygen levels in the plant's various tanks and then manually turn valves to adjust flow levels and keep the treatment processes in order.

"It's more challenging," Colbran said.

"These plants are pretty complex now. They're designed with automation in mind, not manual operation."

It also takes a lot longer, he added, since employees have to physically travel from one part of the 50-acre site to another to make observations, then make adjustments, then double-check that they had the desired effect.

The situation is not ideal but certainly manageable, Colbran added.

Bonnybrook operations leader Robert Kotch stands above one of the facility's clarifiers, which staff must now monitor and adjust manually after June floodwaters damaged automation systems. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO IN CALGARY

Cash flow

Repairing damage and replacing equipment at the Bonnybrook plant is expected to cost another $10.1 million.

- **Protocols.** That's on top of $7.2 million already approved by city staff under emergency protocols during and immediately after the flood.
- **Priorities.** City council is to vote on the additional $10.1 million on Monday. Tentative approval has already been given by the city's priorities and finance committee.

I work with gays, Putin says

President Vladimir Putin sought to ease concerns that Russia's new anti-gay law would be used to punish athletes who display rainbow flags during the Winter Olympics in Sochi.

Gays are not discriminated against in his country, he insisted.

"I assure you that I work with these people, I sometimes award them with state prizes or decorations for their achievements in various fields," Putin said in an interview with The Associated Press and Russia's state Channel 1 television.

"We have absolutely normal relations, and I don't see anything out of the ordinary here."

He added that Russians love Tchaikovsky even though the composer was said to have been a homosexual.

"Truth be told, we don't love him because of that, but he was a great musician and we all love his music," Putin said.

Putin offered to meet with members of the gay and lesbian community if they asked to see him.

The Russian law on "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations," which Putin signed in July, makes it illegal to expose minors to information that portrays these relationships as normal or attractive.

The law imposes hefty fines, while also subjecting foreign citizens to up to 15 days in prison.

In the interview at his country residence outside Moscow, Putin said gay demonstrators would not be punished.

But he clearly has no intention of allowing a gay pride parade during the Olympics.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We have absolutely normal relations, and I don't see anything out of the ordinary here."

President Vladimir Putin, saying gays are not discriminated against in Russia.

Tchaikovsky was said to be gay "but he was a great musician and we all love his music," says Russian President Vladimir Putin.
ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tory tome. Hockey's in his blood, so PM pens a hockey history book

Stephen Harper can soon add another line to his resumé — published author.

The prime minister's book on the history of hockey is set to hit store shelves on Nov. 5.

A Great Game: The Forgotten Leafs and the Rise of Professional Hockey looks at the early years of the game.

It will also feature photos of famous arenas and the game's earliest star players.

"Drawing on extensive archival records and illustrations, histories of the sport, and newspaper files, A Great Game delves into the fascinating early years of ice hockey," publisher Simon and Schuster Canada said Wednesday.

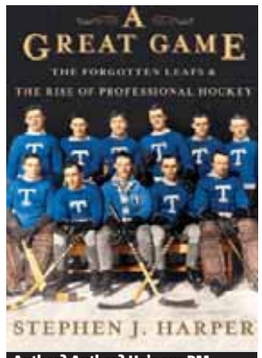
"It tells of the hockey heroes and hard-boiled businessmen who built the game, and the rise and fall of legendary teams pursuing the Stanley Cup."

Harper has spent years on the book, reportedly setting aside a few minutes each day to work on it.

The prime minister is known to be a giant hockey fan and regularly attends NHL games — although the Toronto-born Harper remains coy about his favourite NHL team.

All of Harper's proceeds from the sale of the book will go to the Canadian Forces Personnel and Family Support Services.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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It don't matter if you're black or white. N-word is offensive regardless of who says it: Court

The lawyer for a black U.S. woman whose claim against a black boss's N-word rant brought a $280,000 US jury award says she hopes the case teaches society something.

"It's the most offensive word in the English language," attorney Marjorie M. Sharpe said Tuesday.

A jury sided with 38-year-old Brandi Johnson against the boss, Rob Carmona, in a case that explored a word that is a degrading slur when spoken by whites but at times is used affectionately among blacks, even in the workplace.

Johnson said she hopes the word now "won't be tolerated no matter what your race is."

Carmona, a 61-year-old black man of Puerto Rican descent, had testified that he was dispensing tough love. "I come from a different time," he said in court Tuesday.

He had tried to defend his use of the word, saying it had "multiple contexts" in the black and Latino communities, sometimes indicating anger, sometimes love.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The two Koreas

Can't we just forget about those nuclear threats and co-host?

South Korea has rejected Pyongyang's suggestion that a North Korean ski resort could be used for events at the 2018 Winter Olympics.

The organizing committee for the games in Pyeongchang says that North Korea's offer is unrealistic.

The committee's statement on Wednesday comes after a North Korean IOC official told the Voice of America broadcaster on Tuesday that it is possible to use the North Korean ski resort for Olympic events when it's completed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Just watch this become the must-have gift of the season

A model touches the screen of a Samsung Galaxy Gear smartwatch in Berlin, Wednesday. MICHAEL SOHN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wearable computing. Samsung unveils smartwatch in race to beat Apple for this year's most-coveted gadget

Samsung unveiled its highly anticipated digital wristwatch Wednesday, beating Apple to what could become this year's must-have holiday gift item.

So-called smartwatches, which can perform tasks such as displaying email and Twitter messages on a device worn around the wrist, have been around for several years but have failed so far to inspire great interest among ordinary consumers. But with smartphone behemoths Samsung Electronics Co. and Apple Inc. joining the fray — and Google pushing its Google Glass gadget — experts see a chance of wearable computers breaking into the mainstream.

That is, if consumers can get used to talking to their watch, secret-agent style.

"With Gear you're able to make calls and receive calls, without ever taking your phone out of your pocket," Pranav Mistry, a member of Samsung's design team, told reporters at the launch in Berlin ahead of the annual IFA consumer electronics show there.

The Gear uses Google's Android operating system, just like many other devices made by Samsung. The South Korean electronics company said the Gear can act as an extension to a smartphone by discreetly alerting users to incoming messages and calls on its display screen. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is it really such a big deal?

"Smartwatches haven't had the best track record."

Ramon Llamas, an analyst at research firm IDC, who is skeptical that so-called wearable computers will be a success.

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Judge still being judged over 30-day sentence for rapist

Montana. Original sentence may be illegal

A former teacher sent to prison for 30 days for raping a student is set to return to court in Billings, Mont., Friday because the sentence may have been illegal, but the move has failed to quiet criticisms of the judge overseeing the case.

District Judge G. Todd Baugh said Tuesday that state law appears to require a two-year mandatory minimum prison term for Stacey Rambold, 54.

"In the Court's opinion, imposing a sentence which suspends more than the mandatory minimum would be an illegal sentence," Baugh wrote.

But that did little to sway Baugh's critics, including hundreds of protesters who rallied outside the Yellowstone County Courthouse last week to call for the judge's resignation.

Yellowstone County Attorney Scott Twito said Baugh may lack authority to impose a longer sentence at this point. That's because state law says an illegal sentence must be handled through the appeal process.

Rambold was sentenced last week to 15 years with all but 31 days suspended and a one-day credit given for time-served. He has begun serving his month-long term at the state prison.

Court documents show that Rambold and a young girl had three sexual encounters. The relationship was still going on when authorities were notified in 2008 after the girl confided in her youth counsellor, the court documents state.

Baugh said in response to the criticism that followed his remarks that Rambold's sentence was based on the defendant's violation of an earlier deal he made with prosecutors, rather than the original crime.

Condemnation

The judge has faced widespread condemnation for the sentence and for saying Rambold's 14-year-old victim was "older than her chronological age" and asserting that she had some control over her relationship with Rambold.

- The judge later apologized for his comments. Those who have called for him to resign said it's not enough.
- The girl killed herself before Rambold's case came to trial. That left prosecutors without their main witness.

He also claimed that his remarks about the girl were "irrelevant" and did not factor into his sentence.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Montana District Judge G. Todd Baugh reads a statement last month apologizing for remarks he made about a 14-year-old girl raped by a teacher in Billings, Mont. State prosecutors said Wednesday they are appealing as "illegal" the 30-day sentence handed down by the Montana judge to the former teacher for raping the girl. MATTHEW BROWN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stronger

Man who lost legs in Boston bombings, helped ID attacker, gets book deal

A man who lost his legs in the Boston Marathon bombings but managed to help identify the attackers is working on a memoir.

Jeff Bauman has a book deal with Grand Central Publishing for Stronger, scheduled to come out in April, one year after the attacks that killed three and injured many others.

Bauman is a motivational speaker and said that he wanted his book to "inspire others." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Distance swimmer

48-hour fundraiser up next for Nyad

Diana Nyad may have finally completed her long-held dream of swimming from Cuba to Florida, but even at an age where many people are thinking about retirement, she isn't planning to slow down.

The 64-year-old Nyad plans to swim for 48 hours straight next month, accompanied by celebrities swimming laps alongside her, in a specially designed swimming pool that will be erected in New York City to raise money for Hurricane Sandy survivors.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Arizona

Man rescued by air force after 100-foot fall in national park

An Arizona man is recovering from a climbing accident so remote at Zion National Park that it took the air force to make a rescue in the dead of night.

Park officials say the climber was plucked from Behunin Canyon Tuesday by a helicopter and rescue squadron from Nellis Air Force Base in Las Vegas. Officials say the man's helmet probably saved his life, but a 100-foot fall left him with serious head and other injuries. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Guo Bin recuperates with his mother at a hospital in Taiyuan in northwest China's Shanxi province after a brutal attack that left him blind. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cops suspect boy's aunt gouged eyes

China. Horrific case appears to end with attacker's suicide, but still no clear motive

Chinese authorities said Wednesday that they suspect that the woman who gouged out a six-year-old boy's eyes was his aunt who later killed herself, adding a surprising twist to a gruesome case with conflicting details.

The attack on the boy horrified the Chinese public and added to outrage over violence against children in the wake of a scandal earlier in the year involving teachers sexually abusing young girls. This time, heart-wrenching images and footage of the wailing child in hospital, his eyes bandaged and parents distraught, have circulated on the Internet as news commentaries slammed the brutality of the attack.

In the dark

"He still doesn't know that he likely will be blind the rest of his life."

Wang Wenli on the condition of her 6-year-old son after a brutal attack.

"Mama, why is the sky still so dark?" the child has been quoted as saying while recovering in hospital, his parents unable to bring themselves to tell him about his condition.

On Wednesday, police in the city of Linfen in northern Shanxi province confirmed an official Xinhua News Agency report that the boy's aunt, Zhang Huiying, had been identified as a suspect because his blood was found on her clothes. Six days after the boy was attacked, Zhang killed herself by jumping into a well.

Xinhua did not cite a possible motive for the aunt to attack the boy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Leon's employees fired following workplace hanging of black statue

Halifax. Furniture chain has let go two workers, offered diversity training over August incident

A Leon's Furniture outlet in Dartmouth, N.S., is apologizing and has provided staff with sensitivity and diversity training after firing two employees over the hanging of a black statue.

The furniture store says it fired the two workers after it conducted an investigation into the incident last month.

Leon's says the bronze statute with black patina was taped and hung to an office window. The statue was altered so its eyes and mouth were whitened.

The company did not return messages seeking comment. The incident was revealed by a former Leon's employee, who has lodged a complaint of racial discrimination with the provincial Human Rights Commission.

According to the CBC, Elsworth Bottomsley told the commission he quit after the statue lynching, which followed several other racially motivated incidents over the previous two years. Another Leon's employee, who is also alleging racial discrimination by the furniture store, is seeking to introduce the statue lynching as evidence in her case. **THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM METRO IN HALIFAX**

Lobbying for a spot on your social calendar

Bartender Derek Simoes mixes drinks in the newly-redesigned bar during "social hour" at a Sheraton hotel in Seattle. Long treated as dead spaces that hotel guests raced through on the way to the elevator, lobbies are being transformed into places to work, surf the web or meet friends for a drink. Large, traditional hotels are spending billions on renovations to try to mimic the style and financial success of luxury and boutique hotels, which have always drawn free-spending crowds to their lobbies. Walls are being torn down to make lobbies feel less confined, communal tables are popping up and wine lists are being upgraded. ELAINE THOMPSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Halifax

Rain washes out N.S. booze sales

Nova Scotia Liquor is reporting a drop in sales and profits for the first quarter of this fiscal year, a decline it attributes in part to an increase in precipitation. The Crown corporation says it earned $57.1 million in profits during the first three months of fiscal 2013-14, about $1.4 million less than the same period last year. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Forecasting. Is a recession coming? Just ask Google

A new report suggests that analyzing Google search trends could predict a recession more quickly than traditional GDP data, which are available only after a two-month lag.

The report by the C.D. Howe Institute says this kind of real-time data mining could allow policy-makers to respond more quickly to weakening economic conditions.

Report author Greg Tkacz says when many people plug the same economic terms into Google, it can provide a clue about changing conditions, such as an impending recession. Following this logic, Tkacz analyzed the usage of the search terms "recession" and "jobs" prior to the 2008-2009 economic downturn.

He found that analyzing search trends could have predicted the recession three months prior to its onset.

However, Tkacz cautions that since Google search trends are only available as far back as 2004 — a short timespan as far as business cycles go — the study should be viewed as illustrative rather than conclusive.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Publishing

Dr. Seuss classics go digital this fall

Make that the e-Cat in the Hat. Dozens of Dr. Seuss classics, including The Cat in the Hat and Green Eggs and Ham, will be available this fall for the first time as e-books. Random House Children's Books announced Wednesday that the first 15 will come out Sept. 24, followed by additional publications in October and November.

Other Seuss picture books coming out electronically include Fox in Socks, Horton Hears a Who! and Oh, the Places You'll Go!

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Forget about Craigslist: Call-in classifieds are still alive and well

Advertising. In some parts of rural America, selling your used stuff means calling the radio station and giving out your address on-air

A man wants to sell a truck, and a woman wants to buy some tomatoes. In much of the world, they might turn to a computer to post ads online or flick through search results. But in some parts of rural America, they're just as likely to pick up the phone and call a local radio station.

Three times every weekday (and twice on Saturdays) people in western Arkansas call in to KARV's Dial-A-Trade, an audio adaptation of the classified ads. For an hour or so, callers explain what they're looking to buy, sell or trade. Then they leave their phone numbers. On live air. For free.

Some people who live here see the program as a public service, but to outsiders, it seems more like a time capsule, a relic from an era before commerce began migrating to the Internet.

Radio want-ad programs are neither new nor unique to Arkansas. For decades, scores of similar shows across the country have filled the airwaves with callers looking to buy and sell everything from apples to ammunition.

These shows, with names like Tradio and Swap Shop, broadcast more than free bartering. They showcase a way of life that people in rural America have preserved like canned peaches. KARV's Dial-A-Trade first went on the air in the 1970s and hasn't changed much since then. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Do they take PayPal?

"We still have for sale quite a few of our laying hens.... We're the first driveway on the right."

Dolly SInor, a caller to the Dial-A-Trade radio show in western Arkansas, who gave listeners directions to her home.

Dial-A-Trade host Chris Womack speaks on the phone at the studios of radio station KARV in Russellville, Ark. DANNY JOHNSTON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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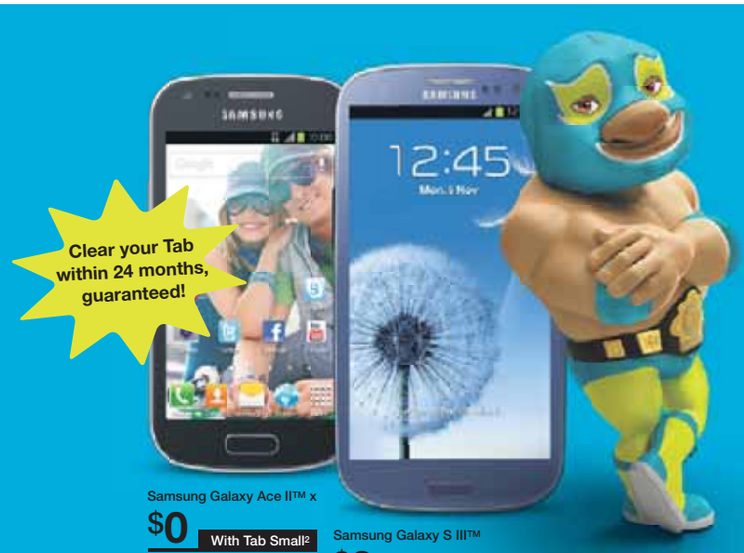

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NOT ALL TEACHERS ARE MADE EQUAL

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Teachers, am I right?

In honour of the beginning of the school year, this was a test.

Did you respond to the mere mention of the profession with rage, fed up with union-protected whiners who don't realize how good they've got it, what with their summer break, free apples by the deskload and brightly coloured chalk?

Or did your eyes tear up at the very thought of these educational exemplars, the second most noble profession (just behind humour columnist), preparing the Leaders of Tomorrow despite the slings and spitballs of the Grocery Store Cashiers of Tomorrow?

Middle ground often seems like a no-man's land when it comes to the battle between pro- and anti-teacher camps.

People love labels. All of us do. It's so much easier than thinking. People can be racist. Some people are classist. Others are regionalist, deciding that 5.5 million people in the Greater Toronto Area are latte-quaffing liberals or that four million Albertans are cow-romancing conservatives — all mayoral election results to the contrary.

And some people are, uh, professionist. While teacher-bashing is more popular at the moment — teacher-praising seems reserved these days for teachers and their relatives — I've rarely heard an attempt at a balanced opinion. Educators are either heroes or heels, full stop.

Here's a hypothetical conversation:

"Must be nice to be done at three o'clock and get the whole summer off," says a teacher hater.

"Teaching is the most important profession we have, and in a just society they'd be paid as much as doctors," says a teacher lover.

"There are many excellent teachers who are making a real difference, yet there are some awful teachers who are protected too readily by their peers," says a third person, joining in.

"Kaboom!" go the heads of the other two, like characters in a violent video game being played in the back of a classroom as we speak.

Here's the thing: I remember a theatre-arts teacher who gave us a taste of Macbeth and A Raisin in the Sun in a way that made us crave more, and I remember a French teacher who showed us Weekend at Bernie's. In English. Without subtitles.

The teaching profession is a mixed bag, just like every other profession except for astronauts and air-traffic controllers (one hopes). I choose to give individual teachers the benefit of the doubt until given reason not to.

After all, these are people who deal with classes packed tighter than a New York sidewalk, and often face junior high students without a chair and whip. And how does one deal with issues like bullying and burgeoning sexuality when, as I recall, all it takes to create chaos in a classroom is one stray bumblebee?

Last time I checked, teachers are people. Sorry to be so controversial.

ZOOM

Fish killed in polluted Chinese river

GETTY IMAGES

Factory blamed for ammonia leak

This was the scene on a 40-kilometre stretch of the Fuhe River in China after a chemical spill killed about 100,000 kilograms of fish, mainly chub, carp and snakehead. High levels of ammonia leaked into the river from a factory, and the owner has been ordered to stop operating.

The government claims the river is now cleared. **METRO**

Other animal tragedies

- 16,000 pigs were found floating in a Shanghai river this year.
- Also this year, 1,000 dead ducks were seen in the rivers of Sichuan province.
- Similar to now, more than 40,000 kilograms of fish were killed after the 2012 spill of toxic chemical cadmium in a Guangxi river.

Fishermen's losses

$11,400

The loss per day that local fishermen will suffer, which could have a devastating effect on the area's economy.

No comment from science company

The Hubei province environmental protection department, notified of the piles of dead fish on Monday, pointed the finger at local company Hubei Shuanghuan Science and Technology Stock Co. The company said it wasn't going to immediately comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Darwin the Ikea monkey made his first public appearance Dec. 9, 2012.
BRONWYN PAGE/THE CANADIAN PRESS/HANDOUT

If you've ever tried to find an old tweet, you know that Twitter's search function is of lamentable quality — at best. Topsy, the social-media-analytic king, has now fixed that wee problem and indexed every tweet ever sent. Ever. That's about 425 billion pieces of content, according to the New York Times. So what can you do with this while companies figure how to get rich from it? Have fun playing a spirited game of first tweets.

Ikea monkey
Where did the first Ikea monkey tweet come from?

Bieber
What was his first tweet?

Trudeau and pot
Find out just how far back the Trudeau pot-smoking story surfaced.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: Dr. Seuss books are coming out in e-editions. Do kids miss out on anything by using an e-reader?

@Canucklehead_ca: Good luck with that e-reader at a book signing! (See also: in direct sunlight.)

@BrianBlatnicki: how do you borrow with e-readers?

@canadiansteph: how can you tell which books are more loved then others? My son's most loved book is torn and bent, and loved:)

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SCENE 2

Beer, perogies and dance: It doesn't get better than this

Calling it like it is.
Small Stage, big art showcased at the Ukrainian Centre

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

I like Dances for a Small Stage because it's exactly what it sounds like: dancing on a small stage.

It's also one of my favourite events because it features some amazing talent and packs an incredible artistic punch for a relatively small ticket price.

This upcoming installation will be the successful series' 29th, and while we'll still see the signature 10-by-13-foot stage, it also marks to beginning of a sister series with La Rotonde, Quebec City's renowned contemporary dance centre.

Up-and-coming La Rotonde choreographer Jean-Francois Duke will premiere a piece here and then return home with a Small Stage template for Quebec audiences.

This is also the series' debut at the Ukrainian Centre (E. 10th at Main Street) starting Sept. 12 to 14 (doors at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8).

"Because of the relaxed nature of Dances for a Small Stage, it's been hugely successful at developing new audiences for contemporary dance," says Julie-anne Saroyan, the show's artistic producer.

"By going to casual venues like bars, legions and now (the) Ukrainian Centre, Small Stage makes it easy and incredibly fun for people to try contemporary dance on for size.

"I'm thrilled that La Rotonde sees the value of bringing it to Quebec and can't wait to see what they do."

Performers include Kirsten Wicklund, Karissa Barry, Julianne Chapple, Daelik; MACHiNENOiSY, Farley Johansson; Science Friction, Dayna Szyndrowski, and more.

It's co-curated by Saroyan and Barry, and emceed by the supremely talented James Fagan Tait, who'll provide lyrical segues between performances with some of the world's best poems about dance.

Culinary bonus: the Ukrainian Centre will be serving perogies and sausages.

Beer, perogies and dance. What can be better than that?

For more information, visit MovEnt.ca. Advance tickets ($20) are available at SmallStage.Eventbrite.ca.

Working for the Weeknd

The Weeknd performs at the Orpheum tomorrow and Saturday night, with guests Banks and Anna Lunoe. Tickets $29.50, $47.50 — on sale now at LiveNation.com.

One more flight?

The last Eagles tour was supposed to be the last Eagles tour. So it goes with old-timey acts. And so the History of the Eagles Tour comes to Rogers Arena tomorrow and Saturday night. Tickets are $49 to $195. Visit LiveNation.com for more tickets.

Dances for a Small Stage debuts next week at the Ukrainian Cultural Centre. CONTRIBUTED

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Multi-faceted Duplass in League of his own

Q&A. Director, actor and self-confessed workaholic talks about the beauty of Pete and staying close to the cast

MATT PRIGGE
Metro World News in NYC

To some, Mark Duplass is a filmmaker specializing in small dramedies like The Puffy Chair, Cyrus and Jeff, Who Lives at Home. To others, he's an actor who plays soulful slacker types in Humpday, Your Sister's Sister and Safety Not Guaranteed. But to most, arguably, he's Pete, the horrifically dude-ish fantasy football addict on The League.

Though the FX show enters its fifth season, Duplass says his character hasn't changed much — which is good.

How do you feel Pete has evolved over the seasons?
Here's the greatest thing about Pete and this show: Pete does not grow up. Every man-child movie or anything you watch, over the course of 90 minutes they learn their lessons and become good people. Pete's kind of a terrible human being. He's super shallow. He's very into fantasy football because he doesn't have very much else going on in his life. He really doesn't change — which I kind of love.

Do you think he'll ever change?
I think Pete's got a shot at beginning self-awareness around 75. But I wouldn't bet on it.

Are there any stray similarities between you and Pete?
No, I'm so different from him. He has this confidence — even if he doesn't work hard, he knows he's going to be fine in the world. I'm deathly afraid of failure and am pretty neurotic and I'm a workaholic because of that. If I don't create projects for myself, nothing will happen.

The cast is mainly comic actors, whereas you and your wife Katie Aselton come from movies.
The films that we've done are dramedies, so we have an appreciation for comedy. You just have to take ego out of it, and make sure you're not trying to be the funniest one in the scene all the time. You're just trying to make the funniest scene you can. And sometimes that's setting somebody else up.

How do you maintain the group rapport, especially with gaps in seasons?
We're all very close friends. Steve (Rannazzisi) just moved back to New York. But the rest of the cast, we all live within two miles of each other. We use Katie's pool as a place where we hang out a lot. We're buds; we just kind of lucked out on this one.

Mark Duplass lazing around on The League. HANDOUT

As an actor, what are the challenges of doing TV versus film and hanging onto the same character?
The League is a bit like summer camp. I get to show up and just be an actor and improvise and have fun. And then I walk away. We're not really arcing these characters long-term. We're watching them in their stasis — we're watching their eternal state of man-childishness. The real challenge is trying to stay creatively relevant and stay creatively inspired. The thing that helps us the most with The League is it's an improvised show. We work from outlines, so you can never get to that lazy space where you just memorize your lines and spit them out. You always have to be on your feet; you always have to be paying attention because you never know what's going to happen. It keeps you vital.

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Keeping mum, finding sympathy for the devil

Lydia. Breaking Bad star Laura Fraser on making a "demented," corporate drug trafficker sympathetic and the pain of staying tight-lipped

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Laura Fraser plays Lydia in Breaking Bad. GETTY IMAGE

Scottish actress Laura Fraser is eager for Breaking Bad fans to finally see the end of the series, which has its finale Sept. 29 — mostly because she's getting tired of keeping her mouth shut about how the whole thing ends.

How much did you know about how things would play out as you were filming the final episodes?
I got to read all the episodes for this season, but while we were shooting them I had no idea. I got the scripts just a few days before, maybe sometimes a week before we shot them. I feel kind of smug right now because I know how it ends.

How much are you allowed to say about it, speaking as obliquely as possible?
Well, it's terrible. It's very hard to do interviews about the show. It's such a secret that you reveal anything under penalty of death. The person the most upset probably wouldn't be the producer of Breaking Bad, it would be the person you told. So I've just been using, you know, metaphors and being very, very vague.

How was it coming into the show so late into its run?
It was very strange, and it still remains quite surreal for me because I came in only last spring. They all already knew each other so well; they were family, the cast and the crew. The series had been going five years at that point. It was kind of like being the new kid at school — and also like gate-crashing an amazing party that's in full swing. You feel lucky to be there but you're not sure that you fit in. But everybody made me feel really welcome.

You always play Lydia with the sense of constant clenched fear.
Yeah, she's a demented character. I mean, I didn't know how demented she was in the beginning. She seems to vibrate at a very high-pitched frequency. She's constantly in fight-or-flight mode, you know? I feel like she's gone from being rather cold to completely glacial. She's almost like a little Nazi in these last episodes. She keeps surprising me. She still comes from such a place of fear, but this greed she has is really trumping her fear, and she's always got this keen sense of something horrendous might be about to happen. Or she might just implode or crumble into a thousand pieces or something.

The show is so good at making the audience sympathize with people who do horrible things for a living.
Yeah, they're good at that, aren't they? Even with Lydia, you got sympathetic in her first episode, that she didn't beg for her life when Mike put the gun to her head — she had this more interesting response that tells you a lot about her character and that she would fight for her daughter. But other than that I wouldn't say that Lydia's a very sympathetic character, really.

Well, I've always found her sympathetic.
Really? Interesting.

What do you have planned now that the show has come to an end?
I don't know, I'm totally slacking. I'm over in Scotland right now visiting friends and family and hanging out. I have a couple of films coming out, but I'm not working right now. Yeah, I need to get a job, you've reminded me.

Old-school comedy goes quicker, faster and funnier

Package Deal.
Executive producer says character development takes a backseat to rapid-fire delivery these days

Package Deal airs Mondays on City starting Sept. 30. CONTRIBUTED

There was a time when an audience would hear how a show was "filmed in front of a live studio audience" rather than the rumbling ha-ha-has of a laugh track. City's new show Package Deal is a return to the old-school ways of comedy.

"It was my first time doing anything live," admitted Julia Votch, who plays the woman who comes between three close brothers in this original series.

"I haven't done theatre … so I was a bit nervous, but the first time hearing them laugh at you and what you are doing, it felt so great and it heightened everyone's performance."

Executive produced by Andrew Orenstein, and also staring Randal Edwards, Jay Malone and Harland Williams, the series was to premiere in the spring, and then summer, before being pushed into the fall by City.

It will now air Mondays starting Sept. 30, edged between How I Met Your Mother and 2 Broke Girls.

"For the first time in my career we were actually bumped for hockey," joked Orenstein, who worked on Malcolm in the Middle and 3rd Rock from the Sun. "I think it is a nice vote of confidence for the show that, you know, they looked at our show, and they went and looked at the other shows that they are buying, and thought, 'Well, heck, it would fit in nicely.'"

Orenstein says that in the last 10 or 15 years, the reality of situational comedy shows has changed. There used to be time to develop characters at the expense of rapid-fire jokes, but the reverse is now true.

"The world is quicker," he said. "You have to be quicker and faster and funnier."

METRO

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Miley's motto: Don't think, just twerk

Miley Cyrus finally spoke out about her much-debated MTV Video Music Awards show with Robin Thicke.

"I don't pay attention to the negative because I've seen this play out so many times," she tells MTV.com. "Madonna's done it. Britney's done it. Every VMA performance, that's what you're looking for. You're wanting to make history."

Cyrus is surprised by how much discussion her twerking has prompted though.

"People are still talking about it. They're overthinking it," she says. "You're thinking about it more than I thought about it when I did it. Like, I didn't even think about it because that's just me!"

Miley Cyrus. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

There is No Doubt that Stefani is pregnant

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News

Gwen Stefani, who never seems to age in spirit or looks, is proving her youthfulness yet again by getting pregnant at 43.

In Touch reports that the singer and husband Gavin Rossdale are expecting their third fabulously dressed offspring sometime soon.

A "source" tells the mag the two "couldn't be happier." If true, baby number three joins brothers Kingston, 7, and Zuma, 4.

Last year, the singer told Marie Claire that she and Rossdale tried for a third but it didn't happen.

"I really, really, really wanted one about two years ago," Stefani said.

"And it didn't really work out. So… I feel good with what we've got. Everything works out how it should. You can't plan anything, right? You can try."

Simon Cowell

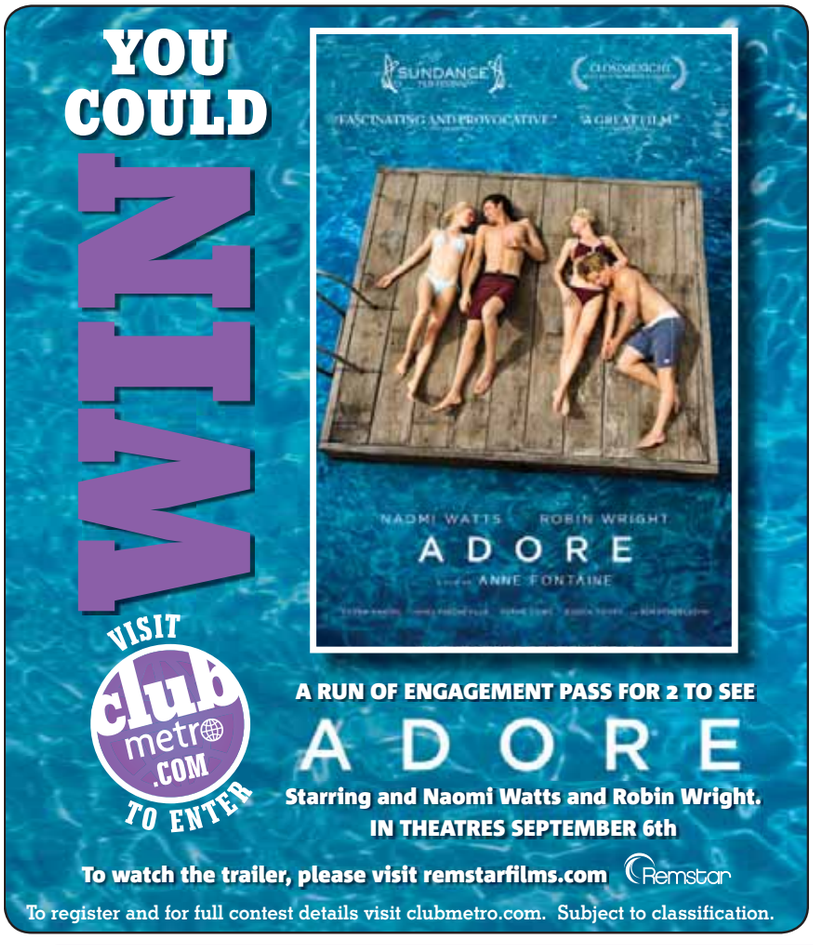
Those finger paintings are truly awful

Simon Cowell is going to be just fine as a father once girlfriend Laura Silverman gives birth, thank you very much.

"Once I got used to (becoming a father) I did get excited. I think I will be a good dad, so I'm excited," he tells the BBC. "I am good with kids because I like kids. I really do like them and I listen to them."

But that doesn't mean Cowell plans to change any diapers.

"I'm not doing that, 100 per cent absolutely not going near that," he insists.



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In the tents or on the town

The prospect of sidling up to Lincoln Center in New York or a cocktail party in Soho wearing your most well-worn clothes may not seem like the best idea. But help is at hand, because as these styling tips we've collected from our street style galleries prove, you don't need an endless designer wardrobe to compete during fashion month.

METRO WORLD NEWS

The Pick'n'Mix

A taxi driver once told Garance Dore that he could spot the girls working in fashion by the fact that nothing they wore matched. Pairing Breton stripes with graphic florals and a denim jacket might be unexpected in the civilian world, but in fashion the two go together like Karl Lagerfeld and Chanel. The irreverence that lies behind such a move is obvious. This tip is all about attitude, so whilst there's a fine line between experimental and, well, ugly, you'll exude confidence by daring to work it.

JIMMY CHOO PUMPS, $695 JIMMYCHOO.COM

ROKSANDA ILINCIC TOP, $815, NET-A-PORTER.COM

ROLAND MOURET STRETCH-DOUBLE CREPE PANTS, $905, NET-A-PORTER.COM

The Sweatshirt Effect

Ever since sports-luxe became a fashion noun, sweatshirts have slowly worked their way into the most stylish of wardrobes. Build up a go-to look by teaming a grown-up version with basic skinny jeans and a high-impact accessory such as a statement necklace or a leopard print bag.

CARVEN SWEATER, $271, MY-WARDROBE.COM

RODARTE SWEATER, BROWNSFASHION.COM, $249

MOTHER OF PEARL SWEATER, $355, NET-A-PORTER.COM

The Fashion Pop

By Milan fashion week the impracticality of those huge Balmain shoulders or bandaged JW Anderson sleeves will be hitting home and cravings for a more comfortable look will start to kick in. This fashionista occupied the middle ground at Italy's fashion week with a fashion pop — that one special item that lifts an entire look. In this case it's her unusual jacket that adds a finished twist to an otherwise laid-back ensemble.

ALEXANDER MCQUEEN BELT, $995, ALEXANDERMCQUEEN.COM

BURBERRY PRORSUM BAG, $1,395

CHARLOTTE OLYMPIA SHOES, $1,200, NET-A-PORTER.COM

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Film festival decorating on a budget

As the Toronto International Film Festival ramps up for another run and my love for The Great Gatsby movie lingers on, I thought it would be nice to pay homage by adding some art deco glam into my home. From walking the red carpet to creating sparkle and shine, there are lots of on-trend home decor accessories to help you feel like the VIPs when coming home from a night at the movies.

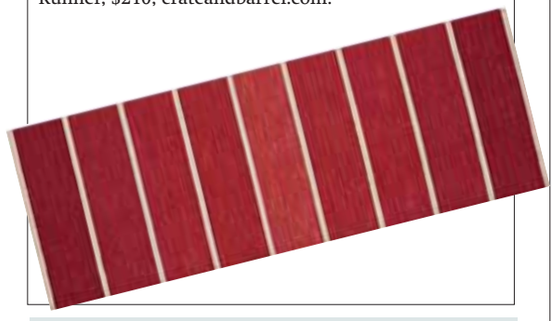
DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Placemat

Layer on the dining table for instant sparkle at your next dinner party or place one under a crystal lamp to dress up an end table. Urban Beaded Placemat, $12.50, simons.ca.

Runner

Feel like a VIP when you walk through the front door with your very own red carpet. Bold Stripe Red Floor Runner, $210, crateandbarrel.com.



Beaded pillow

Add the sparkle of French gold to a neutral sofa or chair. Beaded Lombar Pillow Cover, $59, zarahome.com.

Champagne glasses

At this price buy a case; its cheaper than renting. Glass Champagne Flutes, $2, dollarama.com.

Bathroom tray

Display your perfume bottles or soap in true '20s Hollywood style. Polished Nickel Accessory Tray, $21, sears.ca.

Chandelier

Inject Hollywood glamour to a foyer or bedroom with the drama of sleek black. Concerto Six-Light Black Lucite Chandelier, $179, homedepot.ca.

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Nautical-inspired touches around the home stretch those treasured weekends at the beach just a little bit longer.

TINA CHADHA
Metro World News

5 Nautical-inspired home decor items

Izola Drunken Sailor coasters

$15 for set of six, izola.com

India Hicks Bradbury Seaweed2 framed wall art

$69.95, hsn.com

Peking Handicraft pillow

$48, pkhc.com

Up Country Anchors indoor pet futon

$54-$90, upcountry-inc.com

Anthropologie Sailboat wall hook

$58, anthropologie.com

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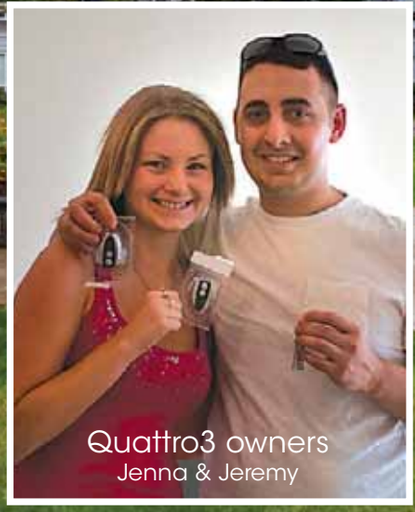

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Not using a ruler can lead to DIY disaster. But there are also some less obvious mistakes people make. ISTOCK IMAGES

Upgrade your home, not your headache

DIY ideas. With proper planning and research, you can ensure your two week renovation doesn't turn into a two year headache

It's common for DIY renovations to begin with enthusiasm and a grand vision only to fall into disorder and frustration.

To learn more about common renovation mistakes and how to reverse the damage, tune in to Rescue Renovation on DIY Network Canada. For now, here are a few tips.

1. Too much to do with too little time
It's important to remember that the larger the project, the bigger the time commitment. Be realistic with how much of your nights, weekends and vacation time you're willing to dedicate before beginning.

2. Not doing it right the first time
Always think long term when planning your renovation. Cutting corners and costs on material and equipment may make sense now, but it will only lead to future costs for repairs and replacements.

3. Measuring once, cutting twice
There's nothing more discouraging than installing kitchen cabinets or a bathroom vanity to discover that your measurements were an inch too long. Measurements must be exact so if you doubt yourself, ask for help before placing your orders.

4. Designing trendy instead of designing smart
Trends come and go but your renovations will be with you for years. While you may want those flashy purple cabinets and to replace your stairs with a slide, your home's value is likely to decline if you decide to sell. Instead, focus on making each area of your home suited for a purpose and use furniture and decor to add your personal style.

5. Overlooking permits
Permits are probably the easiest area to overlook. Many renovations won't require permits, but if you're considering changing your home's structure, you'll need to do some research. Without the proper permit, you can be issued a stop work order and you may not be covered by insurance in case of an accident. Showing potential buyers that your DIY renovations met safety standards can really help raise the value of your home.

SEASON TWO OF RESCUE RENOVATION PREMIERES WITH BACK-TO-BACK EPISODES ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 19 AT 10 P.M. ET\PT

Bellissima! Pasta Primavera minus the pesky carbohydrates

The most delicious and satisfying meals are often the simplest. This flavourful favourite is bound to sweep you away. Make it your very own low-carb staple. Enjoy with a glass of biodynamic red wine, if you wish.

1. Noodles: Slice zucchini in thirds, then spiralize (by using a potato peeler) into thin noodles. Set in colander to drain. (Once zucchini noodles are mixed with sauce, they will release a lot of water, making them soggy. Drain spiralized noodles in a colander, sprinkled with a little salt, before adding sauce. Or pat zucchini between paper towels to pull out some of the excess moisture.)

2. Primavera Sauce: In a blender, blend tomatoes, red pepper, and garlic. Add remainder of sauce ingredients and blend until well mixed. Spoon over noodles and sprinkle with black pepper, basil, and 2 to 3 tablespoons of Pine Nut Parma (optional).

3. Pine Nut Parma: In a food processor, chop nuts to a fine meal (or finely chop by hand). Add salt, onion powder, and yeast and pulse until crumbly. Parma will keep in refrigerator for 1 month. RECIPES PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE SIMPLYRAW KITCHEN BY NATASHA KYSSA

Ingredients

Noodles
- 6 medium zucchinis, peeled

Primavera Sauce
- 4 medium Roma tomatoes, chopped
- 1 cup (250 ml) chopped red bell peppers
- 2 garlic cloves
- 1 cup (250 ml) sun-dried tomatoes, soaked for 30 minutes
- 2 tbsp pitted Kalamata olives
- 1 tsp lemon juice
- 2 tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 2 pitted Medjool dates or 1 tbsp maple syrup
- 2 tsp onion powder
- 1 tsp garlic powder
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 3 tbsp minced fresh basil leaves
- 1 tbsp minced fresh oregano leaves
- 1 tbsp gluten-free tamari
- 1/8 tsp freshly ground black pepper
- cayenne pepper, to taste
- freshly ground black pepper, to taste
- 2 tbsp chopped fresh basil, for garnish

Pine Nut Parma
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) dry pine nuts
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) dry cashews
- 1/8 tsp Himalayan salt
- 1/2 tsp onion powder
- 2 tbsp nutritional yeast (optional)

Pasta Primavera

This recipe serves four. PRINTED WITH PERMISSION FROM THE SIMPLYRAW KITCHEN BY NATASHA KYSSA

Cookbook of the Week

Raw made easy

Promoting a balanced, flexible diet based on gluten-free and toxin-free plant foods can be easy and delicious. Natasha Kyssa sets out to prove this in her book The SimplyRaw Kitchen.

Through 134 recipes the book features a guide to the lifestyle that's easy to follow and accessible.

Among the delicious raw dishes in The SimplyRaw Kitchen are Spicy Thai Salad, Spinach and Mushroom Dip, Soft Taco Verde, Romanian Cabbage Rolls, Corn and Bean Skillet and more. METRO

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CONCORD PACIFIC

Undersized D-man uses his smarts

Jordan Subban.
Younger brother of P.K. isn't the biggest player at Young Stars Classic but hopes to show off offensive skills

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Jordan Subban may still have a growth spurt or two left in him, but for now he remains characterized as an undersized defenceman.

The Vancouver Canucks took Subban — listed at five-nine and 175 pounds and the brother of Montreal Canadiens blue-liner P.K. Subban — in the fourth round, 115th overall, of this year's NHL Draft. He's part of Vancouver's prospects team taking part in the Young Stars Classic against teams from Calgary, Edmonton, San Jose and Winnipeg at the South Okanagan Events Centre in Penticton.

The Canucks' prospects open their tournament schedule on Thursday against the Sharks' prospects.

Of the 10 defencemen on the Canucks' Young Stars roster, 18-year-old Subban is the shortest by three full inches and one of the lightest.

But his game isn't to play the part of a bruising blue-liner — it's to use his speed and contribute offensively by means of hockey smarts.

"I'm not the biggest guy, so I'm not going to be able to muscle a lot of the guys off the puck, so just try to think the game maybe a little bit more and make smarter plays," Subban said on Wednesday.

Jordan Subban is hoping to play like a big-time defenceman at the Young Stars Classic. TERRY WILSON/OHL IMAGES

1st-round picks

Shinkaruk, Horvat to play on same line

Travis Green confirmed that highly touted forwards Bo Horvat and Hunter Shinkaruk will likely play on the same line when the Canucks' prospects open the Young Stars Classic against the San Jose Sharks' prospects on Thursday in Penticton.

The Canucks took Horvat with the ninth overall pick, and Shinkaruk with the 24th overall pick in this year's NHL Draft.

They were also paired together for the final exhibition game at Canada's world junior development camp last month. CAM TUCKER/METRO

Asked which NHL defenceman he tries to model his game after, he quickly responded with Brian Rafalski, who played 833 regular-season games and had 515 points as a member of the New Jersey Devils and later the Detroit Red Wings.

Rafalski was never known for his size. He stands at five-foot-10, according to NHL.com, but was a consistent point producer and never finished with a minus rating in any of his 11 seasons.

"He made up for that lack of size with hard work and a good stick and good feet," Subban said.

He is still trying to land a contract with the Canucks, which is to say he's looking to make an impact in Penticton.

"It looks like he wants to be an offensive player and you need players like that on the back side," said Travis Green, head coach of the Canucks' top minor-league affiliate in Utica.

CFL

Concussion puts Calvillo on nine-game injured list

The Montreal Alouettes have placed veteran quarterback Anthony Calvillo on the nine-game injured list.

Calvillo suffered a concussion in a 24-21 loss to the Saskatchewan Roughriders on Aug. 17 and hasn't practised or played since.

Montreal is 2-0 in his absence, thanks to rookie Tanner Marsh.

The 23-year-old Texan made a successful debut as a CFL starter Tuesday night, completing 18 of 27 passes for 309 yards and a TD in a 20-9 win in Toronto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

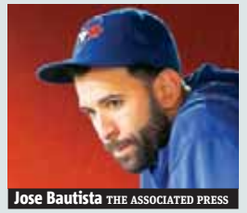
MLB

Jays put Bautista on shelf until 2014

The Toronto Blue Jays announced before their 4-3 loss to the Arizona Diamondbacks on Tuesday that they are shutting down right-fielder Jose Bautista for the rest of the season due to a nagging left-hip injury.

Bautista has been on the disabled list since Aug. 21 and Toronto manager John Gibbons said the slugging outfielder will not play the rest of the season to give him more time to heal.

Bautista played 118 games this season, hitting .259 with 28 homers and 73 RBIs. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Jose Bautista THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rafael Nadal emphatically punched his ticket to the U.S. Open semifinals with a lopsided victory over Tommy Robredo on Wednesday. ELSA/GETTY IMAGES

Rafa romps into U.S. Open semis

It's as though Rafael Nadal never left. If anything, he's playing better than ever.

A year after skipping the U.S. Open because of a bad knee, Nadal powered his way back to the semifinals at Flushing Meadows, overwhelming 19th-seeded Tommy Robredo 6-0, 6-2, 6-2 on Wednesday night.

"I think I played my best match at the U.S. Open this year. Great to be able to play your best match in the quarterfinals," Nadal said. "Playing a little better every day is a great feeling."

The second-seeded Nadal improved to 20-0 on hard courts in 2013, part of an overall record of 58-3.

On Saturday, Nadal will face No. 8 Richard Gasquet, who edged No. 4 David Ferrer 6-3, 6-1, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3. The other two men's quarter-finals are Thursday, with No. 1 Novak Djokovic against No. 21 Mikhail Youzhny, and No. 3 Andy Murray against No. 9 Stanislas Wawrinka. Murray beat Djokovic in last year's U.S. Open final. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

For more U.S. Open coverage, go to metronews.ca.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
No one in their right mind would knowingly annoy you so likely the reason a colleague is being such a pain today is because they are stupid rather than hateful. Don't hit back.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
You like a challenge and that's just as well as the challenges now coming your way will be bigger than anything you have faced before. You will enjoy showing the world what a dynamic Taurus you are.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You may come in for criticism today but no way will you take it lying down. The more others bark at you, the more you will bark back. You may not be the biggest beast on the block but you are the loudest.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Whatever you start over the next 24 hours you must see through to completion, so make sure it is what you really want to be doing. If you are still undecided then forget it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Today's new moon will encourage you to believe that you can do more in your career and that you can turn your talents into hard cash. Remember: If a job is worth doing it is worth getting well paid for.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Today's new moon in your sign means you are capable of feats that ordinary mortals cannot compete with. But don't do things to impress. Do them to further your ambitions.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
People are not blocking your way deliberately, although it may seem like it. Look at your own state of mind. It will tell you more than what partners or co-workers are up to.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
What you gain will be more important than what you lose today, so don't try to hang on to what is clearly moving away from you. Life is an eternal revolving circle — enjoy the ride.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
If you start something new today, your name will soon be in lights. The new moon means you have the vision, and the confidence, to make a success of whatever you are planning.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
What happens over the next 24 hours will make it clear that a more positive cycle is starting. You don't have to do anything special but you do have to be ready to travel quickly.

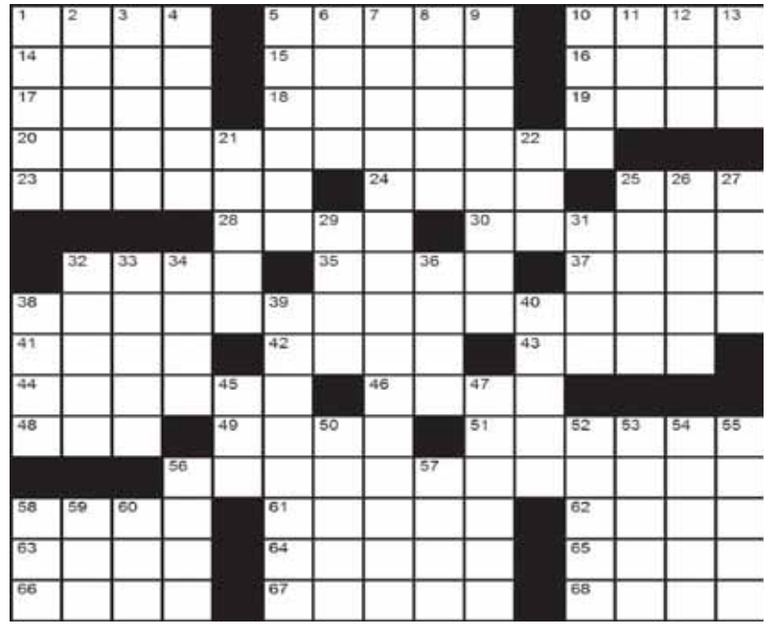
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
If you have financial issues to deal with, now is the ideal time to get serious about them. The new moon will inspire you to knuckle down and find solutions to problems that others have given up on.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You cannot afford to be soft or sentimental. Cosmic activity in your opposite sign demands that you see things, relationships especially, as they are, not as you wish they might be. Be tough with others but more so with yourself. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



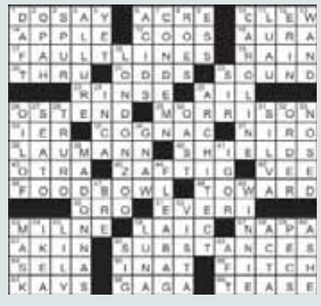
Across

1. Annoyed state
5. Daniel __, Robinson Crusoe author
10. Cape Canaveral org.
14. Culture medium
15. Ring-shaped coral island with a lagoon in the middle
16. Amazes
17. Trojan princess in Mozart's opera Idomeneo
18. 'R' of US state RI
19. Slowly advance
20. tiff. = Toronto International __ __
23. Maintain, as an opinion
24. Necklace bit
25. Slalom
28. Dubuque's locale
30. Wobble
32. Used a loom
35. Singer style
37. Annoy
38. Sir Wilfrid Laurier is on them: 3 wds.
41. Roll _ __ (Have one's turn in board game playing)
42. Plane crash investigation agcy.
43. Depend on
44. Movie legend Marilyn (b.1926 - d.1962)
46. __ _ hat for the lady (Be gentlemanly)
48. Meadow mom
49. __ collar
51. Media company acquired by Bell
56. Canada Post business: 2 wds.
58. "Whoopee!"
61. Easily duped
62. Perceived
63. Canadian actor Mr. Cronyn, star of the flick at #57-Down
64. Decorative pin holders
65. Actress, __ Rachel Wood
66. Russian city
67. Convened again
68. Prefix to 'phone'

Down

1. Seaport of Israel
2. Citrus hybrids
3. Gets an F on
4. Set up
5. __ __ be different (Nonconformist's credo)
6. Shakespearean suffixes
7. Where to attend a CFL game: 2 wds.
8. Musical blast from the past
9. "Love in an __" by Aerosmith
10. Painting holder
11. Barley bristle
12. "Hey! Hold on a __!"
13. Volcanic eruption stuff
21. Used a pan
22. Fruit drink
25. Motionless
26. __ green
27. Furies
29. Mr. Disney
31. __ Canal
32. Franz Lehar operetta, The Merry __
33. Sheep-like
34. Sharply turn
36. __ International (Canadian womenswear chain, once)
38. Renown
39. Stand-up's quick joke
40. Enforcer in "The Godfather" (1972), Luca __
45. Chance __ _ lifetime
47. Most faint
50. Uplift
52. Clicker-holder's target: 2 wds.
53. Actor Christopher
54. "He's _ __ Nowhere Man..." - The Beatles
55. Jeff of ELO
56. Docile
57. "A Letter for __" (1946)
58. British Sci-Fi series, "Doctor __"
59. Sing wordlessly
60. First aid team [acronym]

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

	8		2			9		
6			9					4
		1		4	6			3
		7		5	4			9
3			7	8		6		
7			6	9		3		
4					1			5
		5			7		2	

Yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	5	4	6	9	7	2	8
9	7	8	3	2	1	5	4	6
6	4	2	5	8	7	3	1	9
5	6	1	8	7	4	9	3	2
7	8	4	2	9	3	6	5	1
2	9	3	1	5	6	4	8	7
8	1	7	9	4	5	2	6	3
4	2	6	7	3	8	1	9	5
3	5	9	6	1	2	8	7	4

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